



DETECTIVE

COMICS

JULY
NO. 377



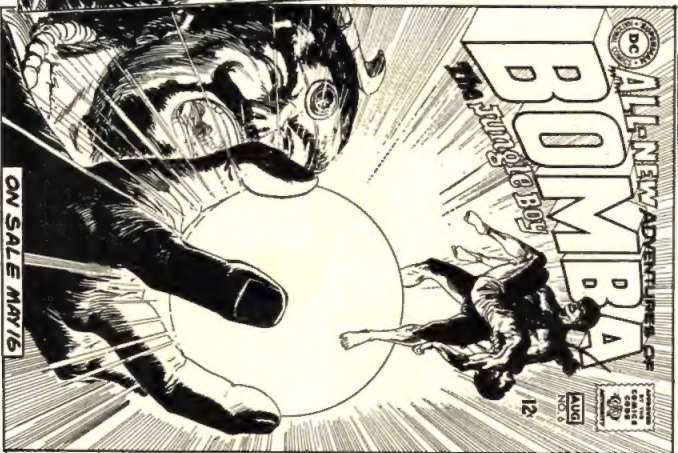
12¢

THANKS TO THE
RIDDLER--
YOU'RE BEHIND BARS
WHERE YOU BELONG,
BATMAN!

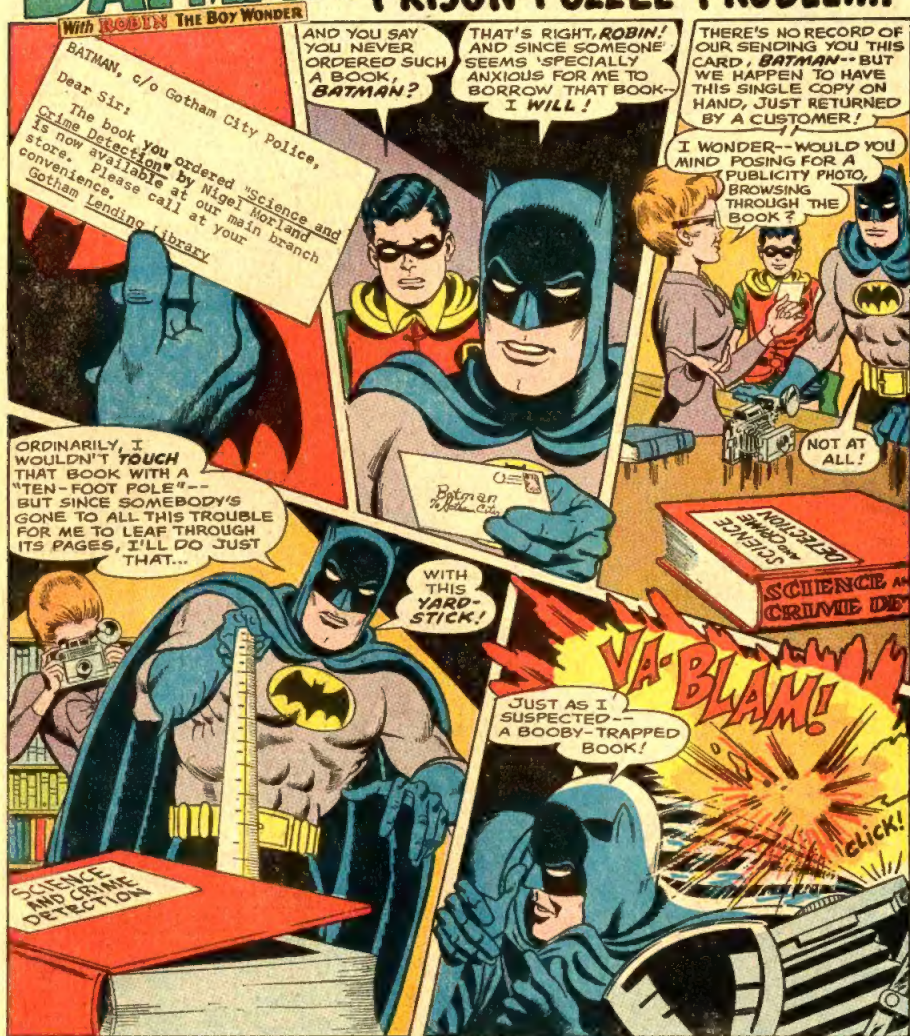


DO YOU KNOW YOUR ABC'S?

A is for B is for C is for



"The Riddler's PRISON-PUZZLE PROBLEM!"



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WHERE'S WHAT AN INVOLVED WAY TO TRY AND GET RID OF YOU, BATMAN!

TOO INVOLVED, TO MY WAY OF THINKING, ROBIN!

I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE THAT...

YOU TURNED AWAY-- BUT PERHAPS YOUR CAMERA DIDN'T!

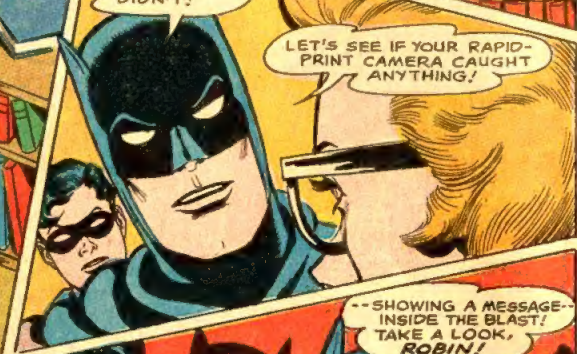
MISS, YOU WERE ABOUT TO TAKE MY PICTURE! DID YOU--?

I-I DON'T KNOW! THE BLAST CAME SO SUDDENLY, I INSTINCTIVELY TURNED AWAY!

LET'S SEE IF YOUR RAPID-PRINT CAMERA CAUGHT ANYTHING!



OOOH! I DID GET A PICTURE--



--SHOWING A MESSAGE-- INSIDE THE BLAST! TAKE A LOOK, ROBIN!



SO THE RIDDLER WAS BEHIND THIS!

LOOKS LIKE THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS HAS COME UP WITH A NEW METHOD OF SENDING US HIS CRIME-CONUNDRUMS!

A NEW AND VERY DEADLY METHOD, ROBIN!

WHY IS A DIAMOND LIKE A STEW?

THE **RIDDLER** IS UNDER A PSYCHOTIC COMPULSION TO GIVE ME A **RIDDLER** CLUE WHENEVER HE PLANS TO COMMIT A ROBBERY!

IF HE DOESN'T-- HE CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THE CRIME! *

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT SALESLADY AND HER CAMERA-- WE'D BE LEAVING THE BOOKSTORE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA THAT THE **RIDDLER** IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN!

BUT NOW-- HE'S DEvised A GIMMICKY WAY OF GIVING ME A **RIDDLE**-- AND AT THE SAME TIME PREVENTING ME FROM READING IT AND FOLLOWING IT UP!

*AS DEMONSTRATED IN **BATMAN** #179!

MEANTIME, I'VE SOLVED -- "WHY IS A **DIAMOND** LIKE A **STEW**?"

THE ANSWER IS THEY EACH HAVE **CARATS** (**CARROTS**)!

AND SINCE **CARAT** IS A UNIT OF WEIGHT FOR **DIAMONDS**--

THE **RIDDLER'S** GOING TO ROB THE **CARAT DIAMOND CENTER**!

NOT SO FAST, **ROBIN**! THE **RIDDLER** IS A TRICKY CUSTOMER! REMEMBER-- A **KARAT**-- WITH A "**K**"-- IS ALSO A MEASURE OF WEIGHT FOR **GOLD**!

SO LET'S EXAMINE OUR **RIDDLE**-- CLUE FOR **HIDDEN** MEANINGS!

I NOTICED THERE WERE **22** LETTERS IN THE **RIDDLE**! AND **22-KARAT GOLD** IS THE MOST VALUABLE COMMERCIAL TYPE **GOLD** USED!

ANOTHER CLUE-- **MORLAND** IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK ON THE CARD SENT TO ME!

SOMEWHERE IN **GOOTHAM CITY** AT THIS MOMENT-- A MAN IS GROWLING IN MINGLED RAGE AND FRUSTRATION...

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, **RIDDLER**!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, **MORLAND**! I'VE PLANNED THIS CRIME SO PERFECTLY-- NOT EVEN **BATMAN** CAN STOP ME!

... AND A PROMINENT COLLECTOR OF **GOLD** COINS IN **GOOTHAM CITY** IS A **MR. MORLAND**!

THAT'S WHERE THE **RIDDLER** IS MAKING HIS STRIKE!



YES, SIR--I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO OUTWIT THAT THINK-TANK BATMAN USES FOR A BRAIN!

SINCE I MUST GIVE HIM A RIDDLE--I DO! BUT THIS TIME--THREE FACTORS ARE WORKING FOR ME-- AND AGAINST BATMAN!



FIRST, I PREPARED MY RIDDLE SO BATMAN WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY EVEN SEEING IT!

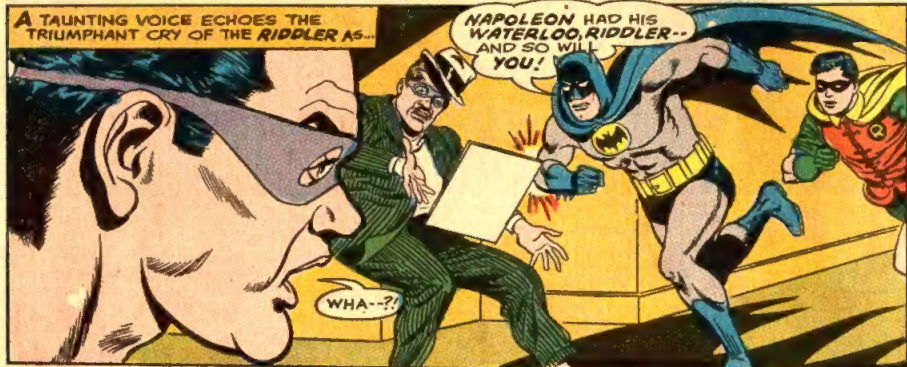
SECOND, EVEN IF HE MANAGES TO SEE IT, THE RESULTING BOOBY-TRAP WILL PREVENT HIM FROM FOLLOWING IT UP!

THIRD, EVEN IF HE SHOULD OVERCOME THESE BOTTLENECKS, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE IN TIME TO STOP MY CRIME!



TOO BAD I COULDN'T HANG AROUND THAT BOOKSTORE TO SEE THAT VOLUME I GIMMICKED BLOW UP IN HIS FACE! WHEN THE RIDDLE APPEARED WITHIN THE BLAST, HE MUST'VE BEEN TOO BLIND TO SEE IT!

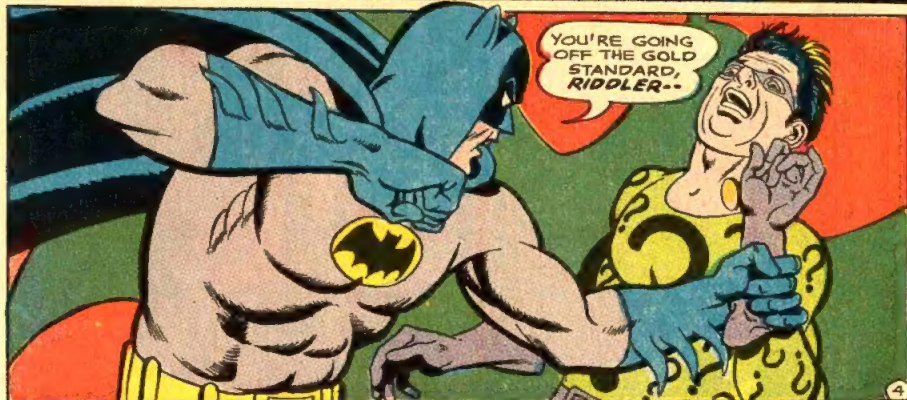
AH, THIS IS THE 20-FRANC GOLD PIECE WITH WHICH NAPOLEON REPLACED THE FORMER GOLD LOUIS D'OR...



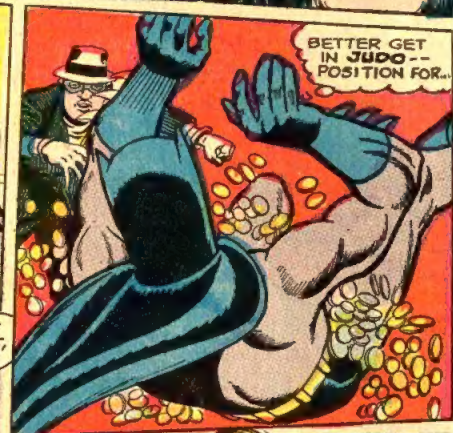
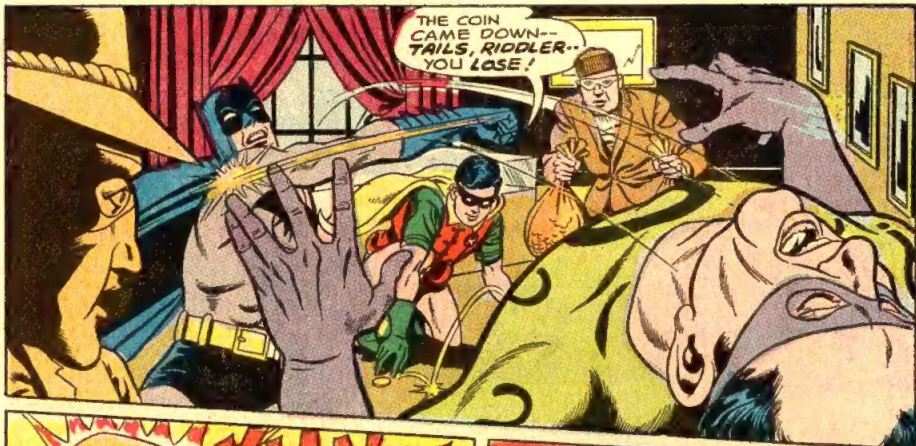
A TAUNTING VOICE ECHOES THE TRIUMPHANT CRY OF THE RIDDLER AS...

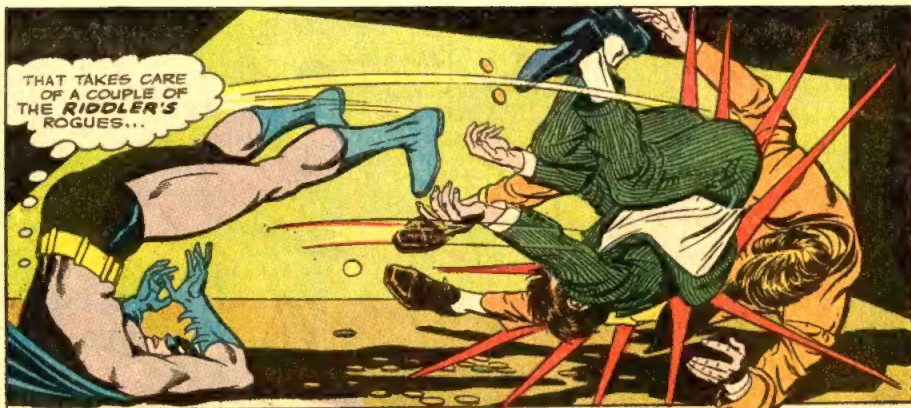
NAPOLEON HAD HIS WATERLOO, RIDDLER-- AND SO WILL YOU!

WHA--?!



YOU'RE GOING OFF THE GOLD STANDARD, RIDDLER--





THAT TAKES CARE
OF A COUPLE OF
THE RIDDLER'S
ROGUES...

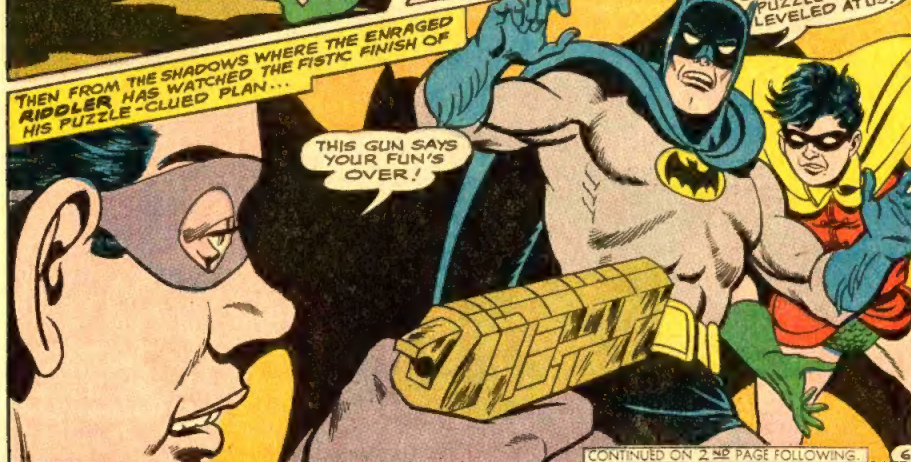


TO ONE SIDE OF THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER, HIS ABLE
ADOLESCENT ASSISTANT IS CARRYING ON AS USUAL...

ALL I KNOW IS--YOU'RE
GOING DOWN FOR THE
COUNT!

GOT CHANGE
FOR A
"FIVER",
PAL?

FIVE'LL GETCHA
TEN,
ROBIN!



THEN FROM THE SHADOWS WHERE THE ENRAGED
RIDDLER HAS WATCHED THE FISTIC FINISH OF
HIS PUZZLE-CLUED PLAN...

WATCH IT, ROBIN!
RIDDLER'S GOT
ONE OF HIS
PUZZLE-WEAPONS
LEVELED AT US!

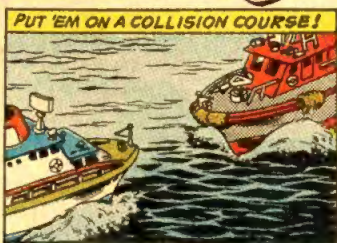
THIS GUN SAYS
YOUR FUN'S
OVER!

RIDE the
HIGH SEAS

BOATERIFIC

the NEW ACTION FLEET,
POWERED by the FAMOUS
MOTORIFIC
MOTORS!

NOW HEAR THIS: NOW MOTORIFIC
TAKES TO THE WATER WITH **BOATERIFIC**.
THERE ARE 8 GREAT **BOATERIFIC**
BOATS AND EACH ONE HAS A FULLY
STEERABLE RUDDER, REAL
PROPELLER POWER, AN AUTOMATIC
BAILING PUMP AND SUPER-REALISTIC
DETAILS. JUST SNAP IN A MOTOR...
BATTEN DOWN THE HATCH AND
FULL SPEED AHEAD WITH
BOATERIFIC!



BE THE SKIPPER OF YOUR OWN BOATERIFIC FLEET... GET 'EM ALL!

"BARRACUDA"
SPORT FISHERMAN



"ATLAS"
HARBOR TUG



"MIGHTY BLAZE"
FIRE BOAT



"KING OF THE SEA"
CABIN CRUISER



"WHIRL-A-WAY" RUNABOUT



"MARLIN TOWER"
FISHERMAN



"P.T. 204"
PATROL BOAT



'BOATERIFIC'...
It's TERRIFIC... IT'S

IDEAL

NEXT INSTANT, THE WOODEN PUZZLE-PISTOL ERUPTS IN A TORRENT OF LIGHTNINGS...



FOUR HANDS DART INTO NEARBY COIN-BAGS-- SPRAY THE AIR WITH LIRA PIECES, SPANISH EXCELLENTEs, AND GOLDEN DUCATS...

THE METAL IN THOSE COINS WILL DRAW THE ELECTRICITY TOWARD THEM!

JUST LIKE MINATURE LIGHTNING RODS!

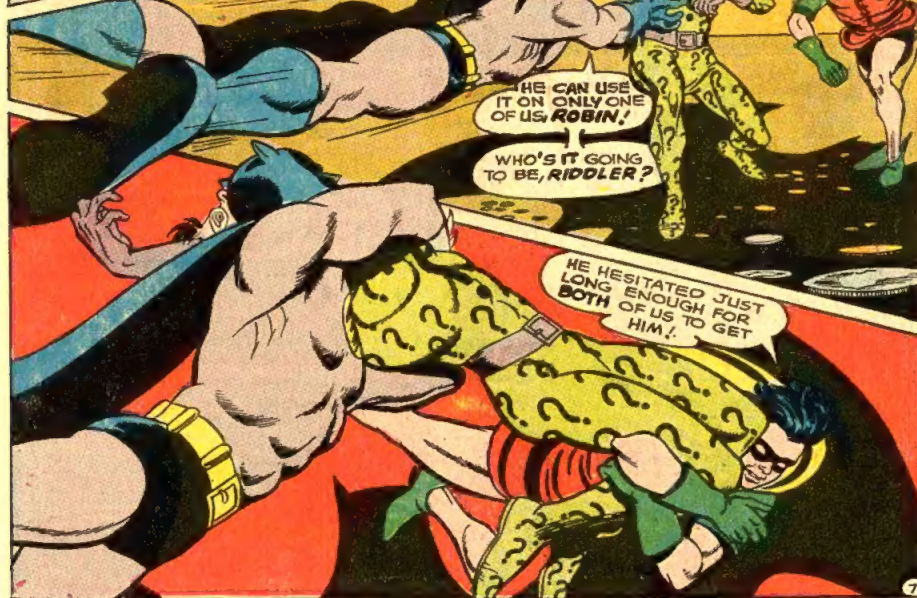


A LOADED ACE, I'LL BET!

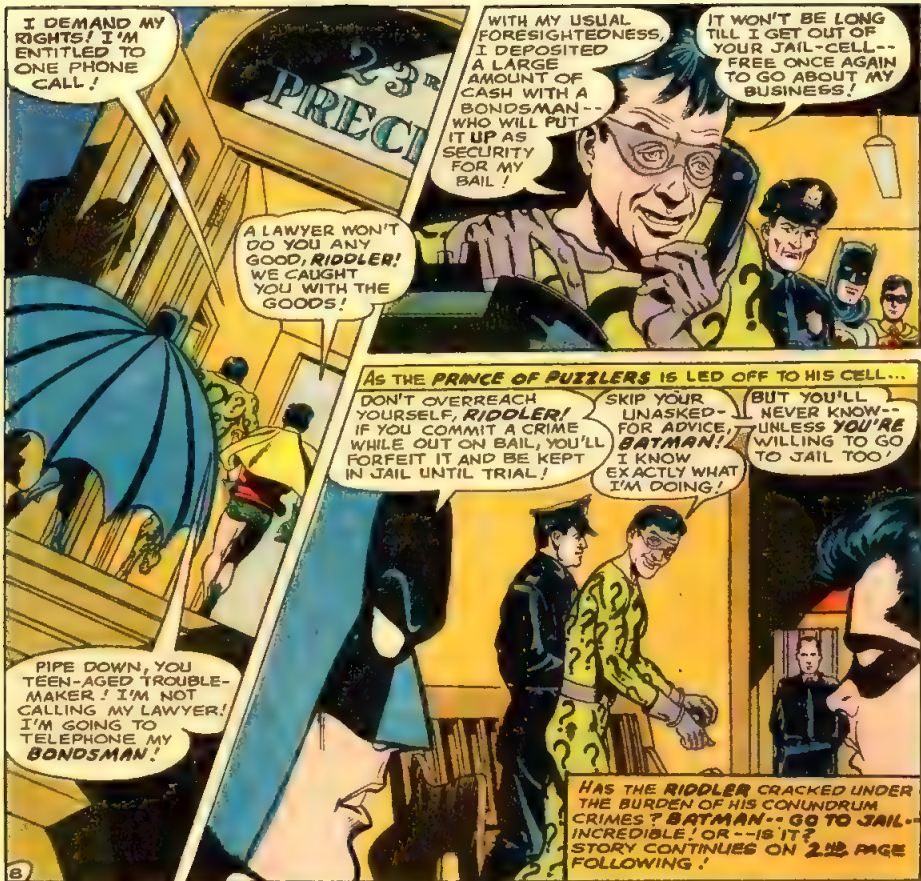
I'VE STILL GOT AN ACE UP MY SLEEVE!

HE CAN USE IT ON ONLY ONE OF US, ROBIN!

WHO'S IT GOING TO BE, RIDDLER?



HE HESITATED JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US TO GET HIM!



MAY, 1968

Beethoven, The Bomb

The JU88 was the Luftwaffe's most versatile weapon. It was a fighter or a bomber...and under the code name, "Beethoven", it became the world's first guided missile. The JU88 was loaded with a 5-ton charge and guided to target by another airplane with radio control. The explosion could penetrate 60 feet of concrete...or demolish an Allied ship. Revell now has an authentic model of this German killer.

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Model of the Month



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80 pg. GIANT

G 49

BATMAN

25¢

AUG

NO. 203

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

SPECTACULAR
The SECRETS
OF THE
BATCAVE!

SECRETS OF THE BATCAVE-1968

THE SECRETS OF BATMAN'S SPEC- TACULAR EQUIPMENT

ON SALE 9th
MAY

BY THE TIME THE **DYNAMIC DUO** COMPLETES ITS POLICE REPORT...

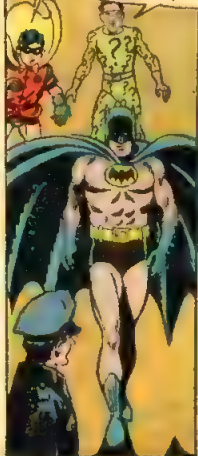
AH, THERE YOU ARE, **BATMAN!** MY BONDSMAN'S BEEN HERE AND GONE--SO I'M OUT OF THAT CELL!

SO I SEE, **RIDDLER!** I ALSO SEE THAT--IT'S MY TURN TO GO TO JAIL, AS YOU SAID!



BATMAN! WHY DO YOU CAN'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO BE JAIL? SERIOUS?

BECAUSE HE HAS NO OTHER CHOICE, **ROBIN!**



THE HOLLOW CLANG OF METAL AND THE CLICK OF A LOCK--AND...



IF **BATMAN** WANTS IT THAT WAY, IT MUST BE THE RIGHT WAY!



YOU'RE BEHIND BARS WHERE YOU BELONG, **BATMAN!**



AND WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE **RIDDLER**...

OKAY--NOW WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE, **BATMAN?**

TO LOOK FOR BLACK SPECKS, **ROBIN!**

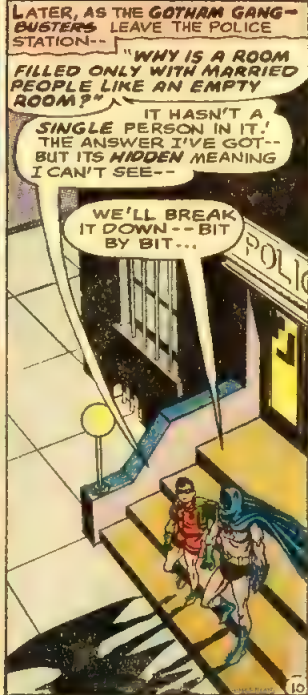
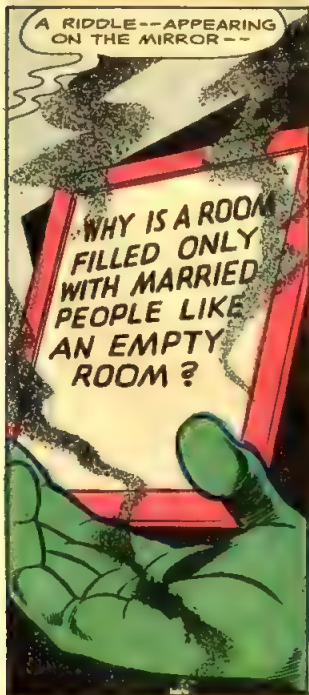
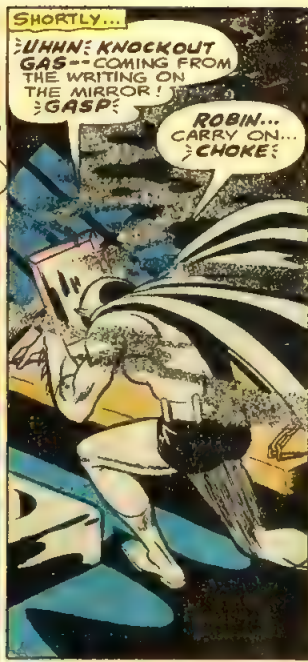


B-BLACK SPECKS? WHAT KIND OF BLACK SPECKS?

EVIDENTLY YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THAT ONE OF **RIDDLER'S** QUESTION MARKS ON HIS UNIFORM WAS MISSING WHEN HE CAME OUT OF HIS CELL!



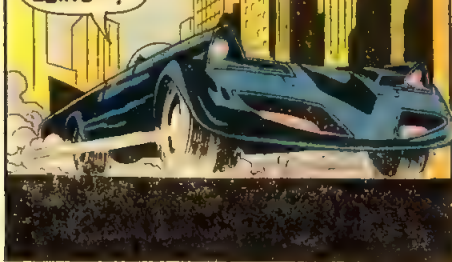
THAT MEANS THE QUESTION MARK IS STILL IN HIS CELL--MOST LIKELY IN THE FORM OF BLACK SPECKS!



TO START OFF--A "SINGLE PERSON"
IS A **BACHELOR**!

IF THAT'S THE **RIDDLER'S**
VICTIM--HOW OF ALL
THE **GOTHAM CITY**
BACHELORS CAN WE
HOPE TO FIND--

UNLESS IT
ISN'T A
HUMAN
BEING--!



RECENTLY I READ SOMETHING
ABOUT A "**BACHELOR**" **DIAMOND**--

SO DID I! A LARGE
DIAMOND THAT A
MAHARAJAH IN INDIA
HAD CUT INTO AN
ENGAGEMENT RING
MANY YEARS AGO--

AND IT'S
ON DISPLAY
AT THE
MUSEUM
OF INDIA!

BUT HE NEVER MARRIED
THE GIRL! EVER SINCE,
IT'S BEEN KNOWN AS
THE **BACHELOR DIAMOND**.



AT **GOTHAM CITY'S MUSEUM OF INDIA**, SOMEWHAT LATER...

AAHH! THE
BACHELOR
DIAMOND--
ALL MINE!

TO HOLD, BUT
NOT TO KEEP,
RIDDLER!



B-BATMAN! GLUE-
CONTAINERS! HOW CAN
THAT STOP US?

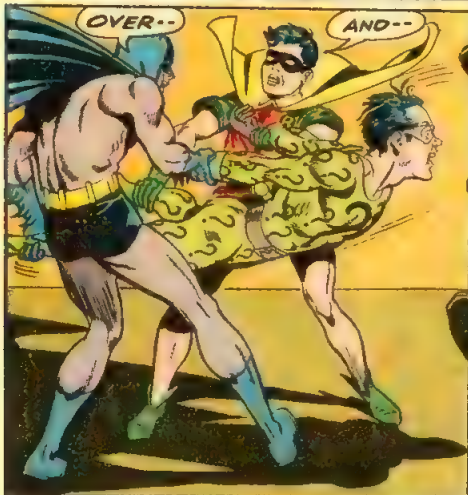
WE CAN'T WAIT
TO FIND OUT!
ROBIN!

HURRY--OVERPOWER THESE
TWO--AND GET TO THE
RIDDLER!



AFTER DEPOSITING THEIR Foe's KAYOED MUSCLEMEN OUTSIDE THE DIAMOND VAULT ...

ALL RIGHT, RIDDLER--
YOU'RE NEXT!!



OVER--

AND--



OUT!

HA-HA! THAT SHOUT OF MINE ACTIVATED AN ELECTRONIC
CONTROL-- CAUSING AN INTERLOCKED NAILS-PUZZLE
GRATING TO DROP FROM THE ARCHWAY!

YOU'RE TRAPPED
INSIDE THE
VAULT!



SHALL I FINISH
'EM OFF NOW,
RIDDLER?



NO, NO, FOOL! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME TO ROB UNLESS I LEAVE
BATMAN AND ROBIN A RIDDLE-
CLUE TO MY CAPERS!

IF THEIR LIVES COME TO AN END,
SO DOES MY CRIME-CAREER!

WITH THEM HELPLESSLY
PENNEED INSIDE THE PUZZLE-
PRISON, WE CAN PROCEED
TO MY NEXT PLANNED
ROBBERY!



I'M SETTING UP MY RIDDLE ON THESE LETTER BLOCKS-- WITH THE LETTERS TURNED AWAY SO YOU CAN'T READ THEM!

BY THE WAY, IF YOU EXPECT TO USE THE GADGETS IN YOUR UTILITY BELTS TO HELP YOU-- FORGET IT! THE PLASTIC GLUE ON YOUR COMPARTMENT FLAPS WILL PREVENT YOU FROM OPENING THEM!

SO THAT'S HOW HE PLANNED TO STOP US!

ACTUALLY, IT WON'T BE HARD TO BREAK OUT OF MY TRAP-- BUT WHEN YOU DO, IT WILL EXPLODE OUTWARD-- SCATTER THE BLOCKS ALL OVER THE PLACE! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PUT THEM BACK IN THE CORRECT ORDER. HA! HA! HA!

WITH THAT WARNING, THE RIDDLER RACES OFF.

ROBIN, GRAB UP A HANDFUL OF THOSE JEWELS!

HUH? WHAT DO WE WANT WITH JEWELS-- AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

WHY MUST A DISHONEST MAN STAY INDOORS

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY GOOD AT MARBLES, BATMAN!

YEAH-- BUT THESE STAKES ARE A LOT HIGHER!

THE CAPED CRUSADER TAKES AIM-- AND WITH UNERRING ACCURACY...

I GET IT! WE KNOCK THE BLOCKS OVER ONE BY ONE SO THEY'LL FALL DOWN IN ORDER-- AND NOT BE MIXED UP WHEN WE ESCAPE!

AND WHEN THE LAST BLOCK GOES DOWN...

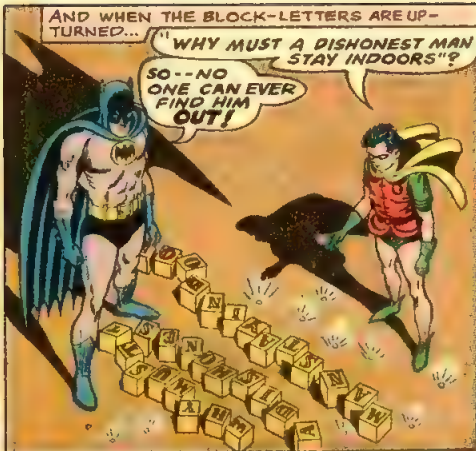
STAY BACK, ROBIN! I'M GOING TO DETONATE THAT PUZZLE-PRISON BY THROWING MY UTILITY BELT AT IT!



NOW TO
UNCOVER
ITS SECRET
MEANING...

"NO ONE" MIGHT BE
READ AS "NUMBER
ONE"!

AND THERE'S A
"CANEYER STREET"--
JUST "OUT" SIDE
OF TOWN-- THE
ADDRESS OF THE
ARTISTIC GLASS
COMPANY!



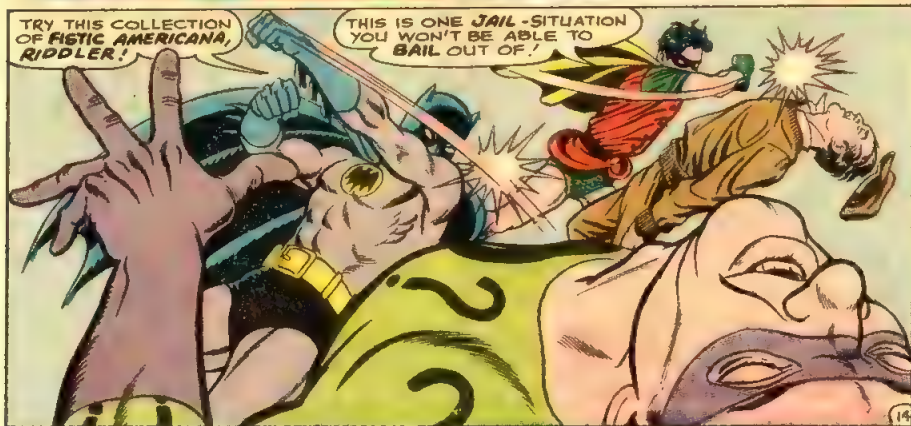
SHORTLY, AT NUMBER ONE CANEYER STREET...

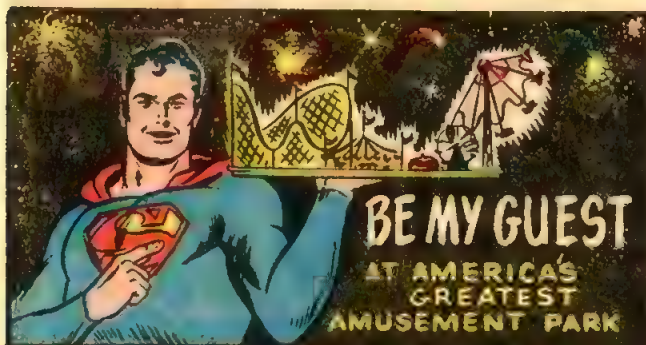
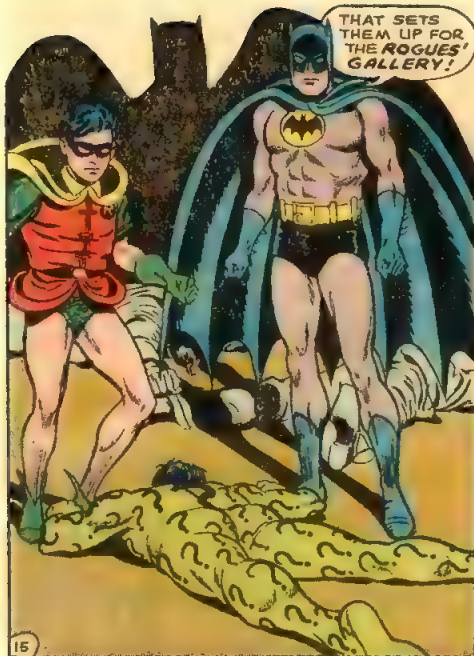
AH! PERFECT SPECIMENS
OF THE GLASSMAKER'S
ART-- EACH WORTH
THOUSANDS OF
DOLLARS!

A WELCOME
ADDITION TO MY
COLLECTION OF
ARTISTIC
AMERICANA!

TRY THIS COLLECTION
OF FISTIC AMERICANA,
RIDDLER!

THIS IS ONE JAIL-SITUATION
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO
BAIL OUT OF!





PALISADES
AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

½ MILE SOUTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE



LOOK FOR THIS COUPON IN ALL
MAY THROUGH OCTOBER ISSUES

ADMIT ONE (1) to
PALISADES
AMUSEMENT PARK, N.J.

GOOD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY
and FRIDAYS
(EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)
Until 7 P.M.

FREE
ADMISSION
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WORTH **85¢**

~ FREE RIDE ~
SUPERMAN
GIANT COASTER

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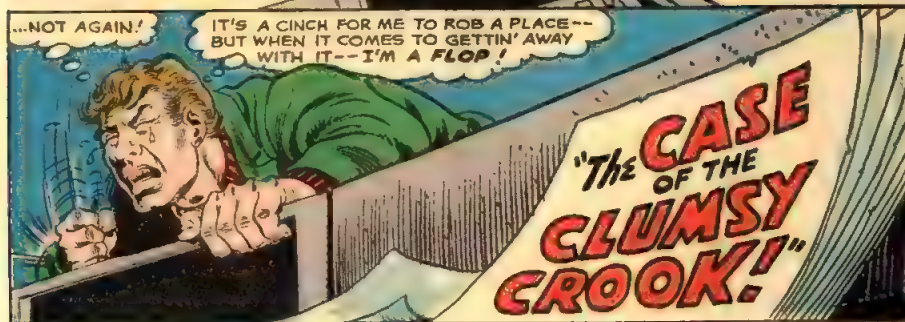
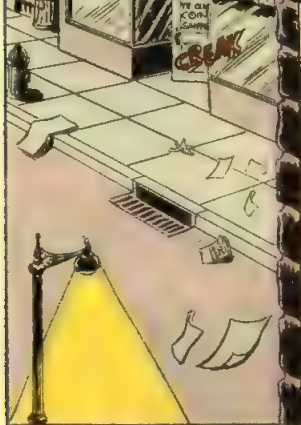
OPERATION: BLINDFOLD!



**A DARINGLY
DIFFERENT
BATMAN**

COMBINING THE
WRITING SKILL OF
**FRANK
ROBBINS**
AND THE ARTISTIC
GENIUS OF
**IRV
NOVICK!**

**YOU'VE NEVER READ OR SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE IT!! On Sale JUNE 6th**



"THE JINX HIT ME WITH MY VERY FIRST JOB! I'D CRACKED A BANK AND WAS ON MY WAY HOME, MY POCKETS STUFFED WITH CASH, WHEN..."

EMPTY YOUR POCKETS, CHUMP!

"NEXT I ROBBED A MILLIONAIRE'S ISLAND ESTATE, AND WAS ROWIN' OFF WITH A FORTUNE IN ART TREASURES, WHEN A STORM BLEW UP--AND..."

"AND HOW ABOUT THE NIGHT OF THE BLIZZARD, WHEN I ACTUALLY MADE IT BACK HOME WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE--ONLY TO FIND..."

THE GEMS--GONE!
THEY SLIPPED THROUGH
A HOLE IN MY
POCKET!

AT LEAST I'VE BEEN
LUCKY ENOUGH NOT TO
HAVE BEEN CAUGHT
BY THE POLICE WITH
THE GOODS!

I'M GONNA GIVE MYSELF
ONE MORE CHANCE
TO BREAK THIS JINX! IF IT
DOESN'T WORK, I--I'LL
JUST HAVE TO GO
STRAIGHT!

THE FOLLOWING
EVENING FINDS TAPS
CARTER SLIPPING INTO
A DARKENED MOTEL
ROOM...

I DON'T CARE
WHAT I HAD
THIS TIME--

LONG AS I GET BACK
HOME WITH IT!

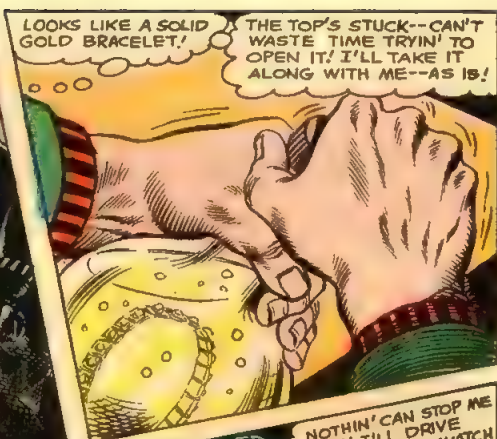
THAT SUITCASE--
TOO BIG TO LUG
OFF!

I'LL JIMMY IT
OPEN--TAKE
JUST ONE SMALL
ITEM...



THIS BOTTLE--
HARDLY WORTH
SWIPIN'...

WAIT--THERE'S
SOMETHIN' INSIDE
IT...



LOOKS LIKE A SOLID
GOLD BRACELET!

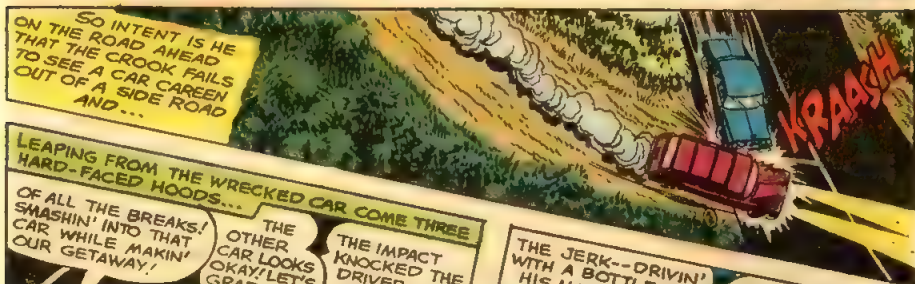
THE TOP'S STUCK--CAN'T
WASTE TIME TRYIN' TO
OPEN IT! I'LL TAKE IT
ALONG WITH ME--AS IS!

MOMENTS LATER, TAPS
CLUTCHES THE BOTTLE
WITH DESPERATE FINGERS
AS HE DRIVES OFF INTO
THE NIGHT...



NOTHIN' CAN STOP ME
NOW! I'LL DRIVE
CAREFULLY--WATCH
OUT FOR TRAFFIC
SIGNALS--NOT
MAKE A SINGLE
MISTAKE!

SO INTENT IS HE
THAT THE CROOK AHEAD
TO SEE A CAR CAREEN
OUT OF A SIDE ROAD
AND...

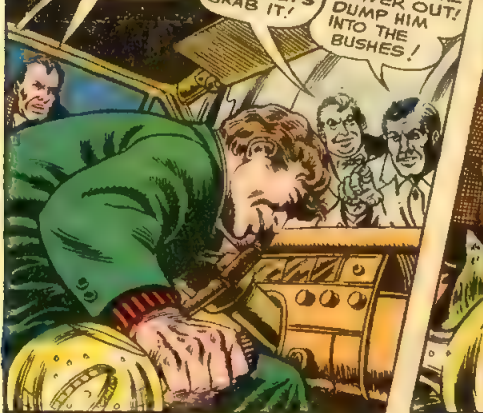


LEAPING FROM THE WRECKED CAR COME THREE
HARD-FACED HOODS...

OF ALL THE BREAKS!
SMASHIN' INTO THAT
CAR WHILE MAKIN'
OUR GETAWAY!

THE
OTHER
CAR LOOKS
OKAY! LET'S
GRAB IT!

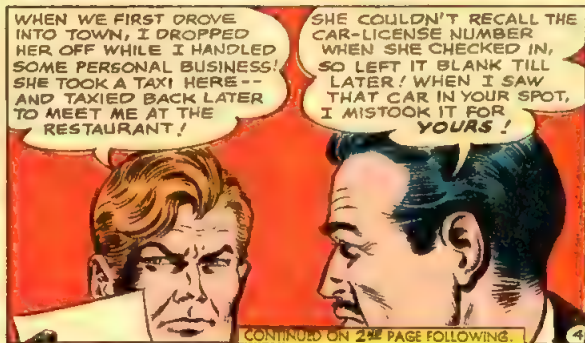
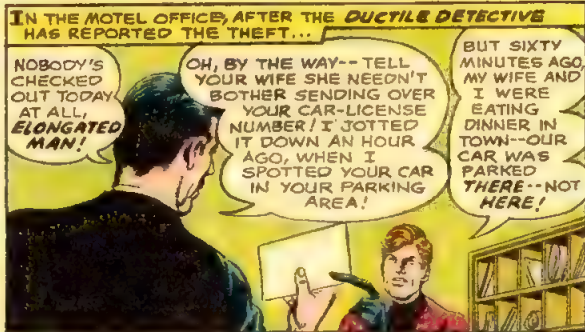
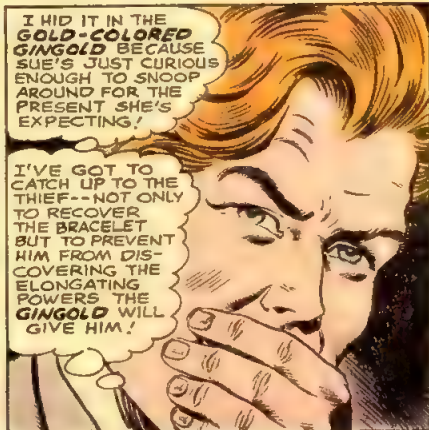
THE IMPACT
KNOCKED THE
DRIVER OUT!
DUMP HIM
INTO THE
BUSHES!



THE JERK--DRIVIN'
WITH A BOTTLE IN
HIS HAND--!

NOT JUST AN
ORDINARY BOTTLE!
THERE'S A GOLD
BRACELET INSIDE!





With most hobby kits, the fun
is in putting them together.

With **Anzio Beach** the excitement
comes afterward.

Like a delayed-action bomb.



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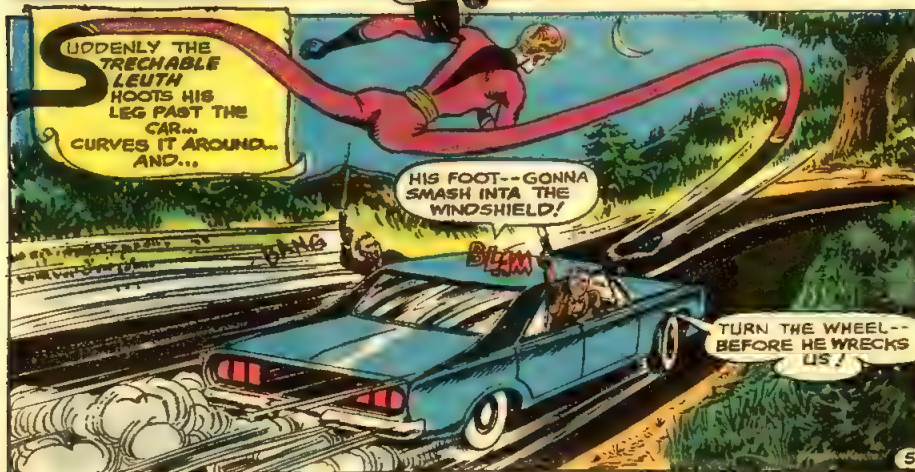
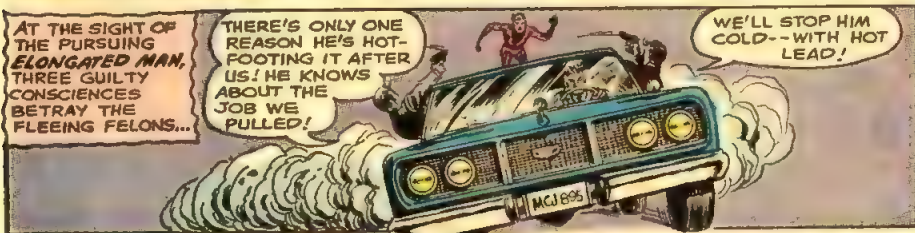
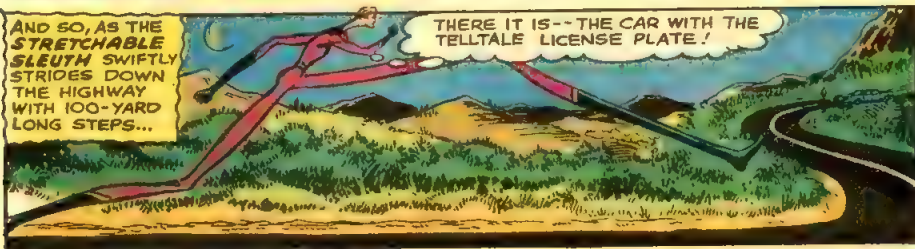
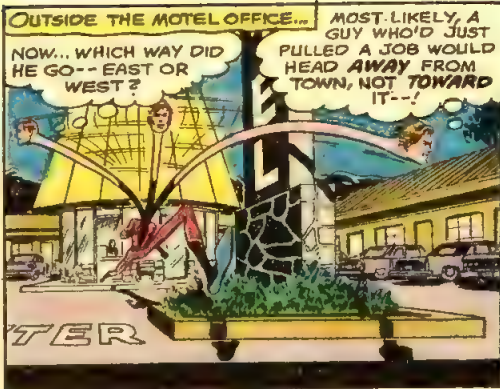
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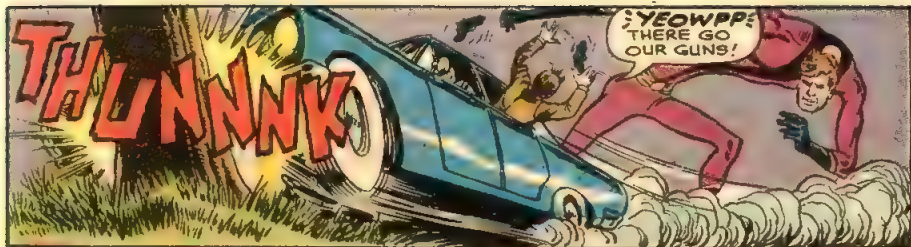
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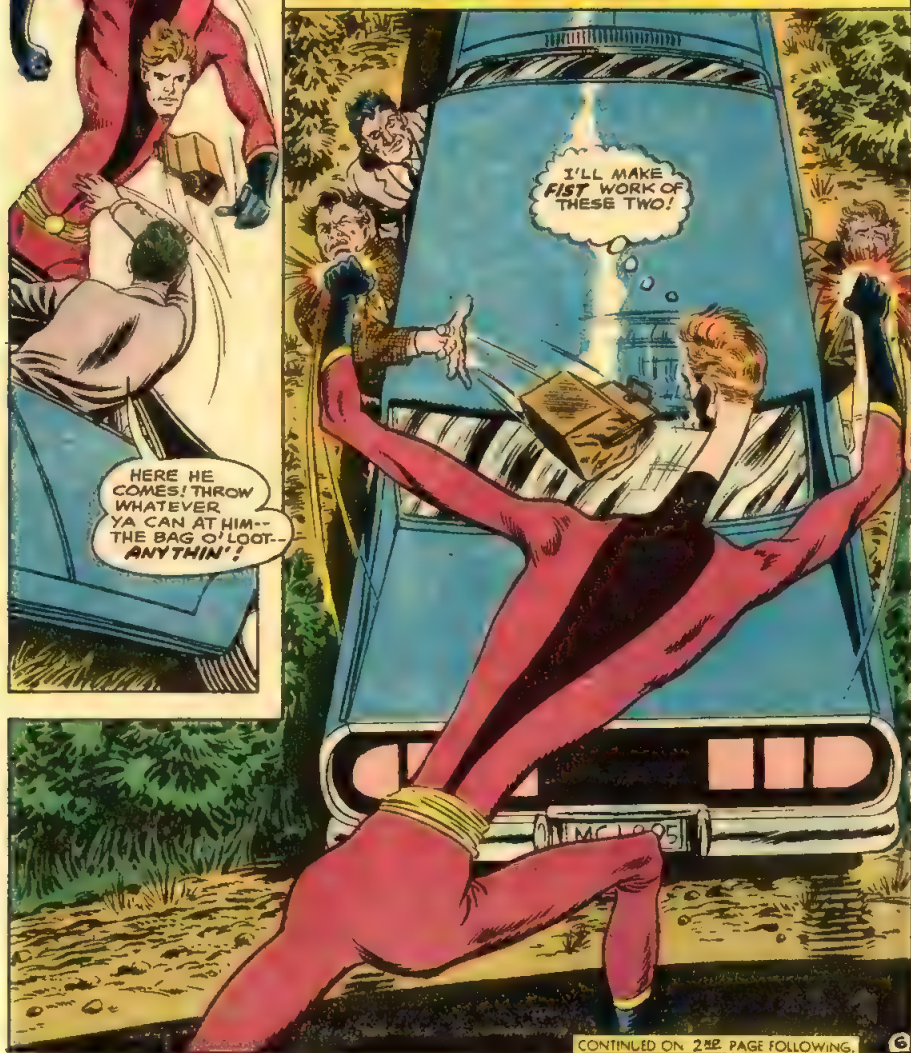
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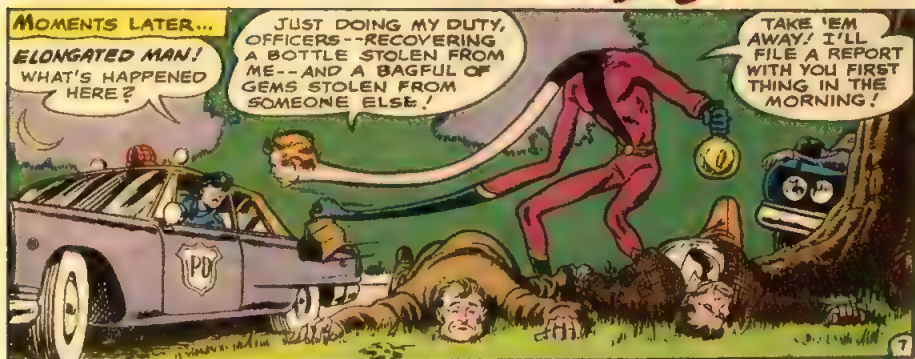
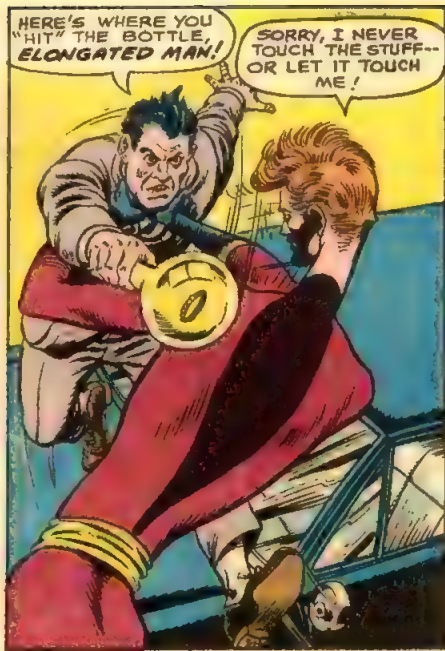
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SHORTLY,
NEAR THE
MAIN HIGHWAY,
A GROGGY
TAPS CARTER
STUMBLES
THROUGH THE
UNDERBRUSH...

THAT SETTLES IT!
I'M GOIN' STRAIGHT AND--

AWWWPPFF!

WHAT'D I
TRIP OVER
THIS TIME?

C-COUNTERFEIT
PLATES! HOW'D
THEY GET HERE?

BOY, I
COULD MAKE
A PILE O'
DOUGH--

AND AS THE EVER-CLUMSY CARTER RACES
OUT ONTO THE HIGHWAY, HE SLAMS FULL-TILT
INTO THE LEG OF THE MOTEL-BOUND
ELONGATED MAN! ...

SORRY ABOUT
THAT, MISTER--
I DIDN'T SEE
YOU RUN OUT
OF THE
BUSHES!

GNGGHH!

HERE'S THE
STUFF YOU
DROPPED--

WAIT!

THESE
ARE
COUNTERFEIT
PLATES!

DON'T GET THE
WRONG IDEA,
ELONGATED MAN!
I FOUND 'EM IN THE
BUSHES AND WAS
BRINGIN' 'EM TO THE
POLICE!

IF YOU'RE GONNA
PIN A RAP ON ME,
I'LL ADMIT TO
STEALIN' THE
BOTTLE YOU'RE
HOLDIN'-- WITH
THE BRACELET
IN IT--PLUS SOME
OTHER ROBBERIES...

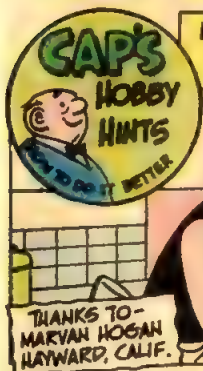
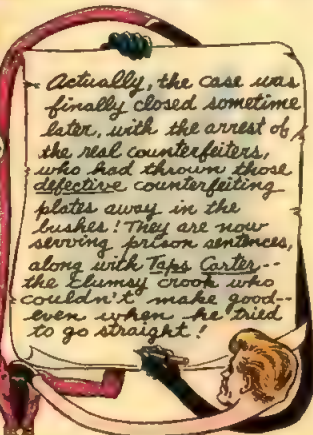
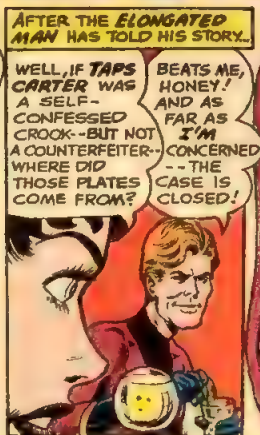
NO!

I SAID I
WAS GOIN'
STRAIGHT--
AND I AM!

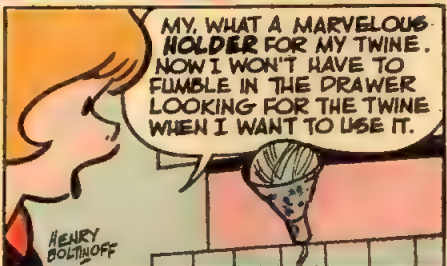
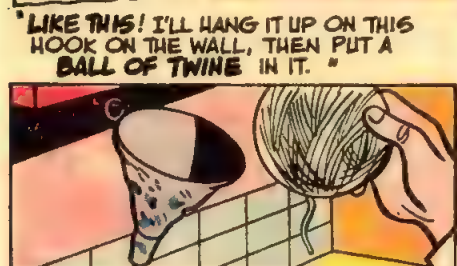
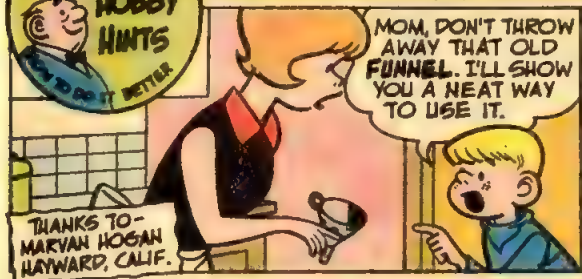
I'LL TURN 'EM
OVER TO THE
POLICE AND
PROVE IT!

THIS IS GETTING
TOO COMPLICATED
FOR ME! YOU BETTER
TELL YOUR STORY
TO THE POLICE!

WHEW! WHEN I
WAS A CROOK I
COULDN'T GET
AWAY WITH IT--
AND WHEN I'M
LEGIT, I STILL
CAN'T GET AWAY
WITH IT!



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BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor:

My admiration for *saveate* made "The Fearsome Foot-Fighters" in the February *Detective Comics* an especially laudable effort for my tastes—from heel to toe it was solely superb. The story would have been an arch-success even if it had left the *saveate* gimmick to the French. It was originally constructed, excitingly written, and generally as outstanding and interesting a story as printed in *Detective* in years. The plot device of keeping Robin in his gilded cage for the duration of the story was quite a change in itself—the fiend-fighting fledgling is fine, but Batman battles best alone.

Another good plot-point that helped nail this foxy fantasy down as unique was its human interest. I mention particularly "poor" Bruce's taxi trouble with his enamorate Andrea . . . I suppose one of the negative aspects to being a super-hero like the criminal-catching-cape-and-cowler, besides the inevitable smart-aleck remarks from unkind citizens, is the time and girl friends lost for the sake of civic duty. Also in this line, I was immediately booted toward the story's side by the sight of that purple plasmaed "Li'l Ol' Lady" passing out when she discovered that the safe in which she kept her jewels wasn't . . . safe, I mean . . . and her husband's cool, unflustered interest in the thief's I.O.U. while simultaneously catching his unconscious wife. This was a nice, humorous bit that started "The Fearsome Foot-Fighters" off on the right foot.

Lastly, let me congratulate all the artists connected with this issue, particularly Neal Adams for his cover. The foot-fighters seemed not flat, but three-dimensional figures. Adams is the best new artist in the business today. With work like this, with stories like these, 1968 is—comics-wise—off in grand stride.

—Guy Lillian III., Berkeley, Cal.

(Mr. Lillian has managed to spring so many dis-Guy-sed puns in his letter, we're caught flat-footed with no other comment than, *saveate else* is new?—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Although "Fearsome Foot-Fighters" had a pretty hokey title, and the cover was unbelievably bad, all the minor discrepancies that one would care to find were made up for by the plot, story construction, and extra touches. The idea of athletes from another country fighting with their feet is quite original—no award-winner, but still very original. Also, it was quite good to see Bruce Wayne fighting out of costume, and without Robin. I have no doubt that this will raise a storm of protest from your younger fans who absolutely idolize Robin, but I much prefer a story when it does not involve the *Boy Wonder*. I have nothing against him personally; it is just that I am not sold on the idea of a kid sidekick to a super-hero (even after oh-so-many years of comics reading, I cannot choke down the prospect of a teenage boy dressing up like Robin Hood, or whoever it was that Bob Kane said he patterned Robin's costume after, and going out to fight the forces of evil and oppression). My protest will hardly change any policies, but I just wanted you to know that if you have any plans for killing off (pardon the expression) the *Boy Wonder*, you have my blessings (I know all of this is a terrible thing to say, but I can't help it).

The only other thing I have to say about this story is that it is good to see Bruce Wayne, the stodgy old bachelor, out on a real live date. Maybe this will lead to the eventual marriage of the secret identity of the *Gray-Garbed Gargantuan* (Allah save us) to one of the glamor girls he's always supposed to be out with.

—Jeff Pierce, Stanford, Cal.

(Rub out, Robin? Erase it from your thoughts! Marry off Bruce Wayne? Well, a Mrs. Bruce Wayne is slated to make the scene in the October *Detective*!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Gardner Fox wrote "The Fearsome Foot-Fighters"! Since I'm presently on a "kick" (believe me, I really stumbled on that pun!) of identifying the authors of stories, I have once again ventured my guess on the Batman story in the February *Detective*. Most of the time it is somewhat difficult to determine a story's author, but when you learn to identify the characteristics which an author uses, it is considerably easier. In Mr. Fox's case, the "characteristic" is simple once ferreted out. He does some research on some obscure topic and then builds his story around it. For example, take this issue's gimmick—*saveate*—and a recent *Elongated Man* tale featuring UHF waves. In nine cases out of ten this style of story-writing will identify Gardner Fox as the author.

—Dave Truesdale, S. St. Paul, Minn.

(You lost out with your nine-to-ten shot on the authorship of "The Fearsome Foot-Fighters!" Long (shot) John Broome clicked out the story.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

How does one go about making comments on a story that left him with no opinion? I guess he skips the story, so exit *Batman* ("Fearsome Foot-Fighters") and enter *Elongated Man*. The consistency of the *Malleable Man-hunter's* tales is phenomenal. Without exception, the *Elongated Man* is entertaining, taking me into a sort of unusual world for a comics character, a world with real people, who always seem to have almost-real problems. This, for his 44th solo adventure in *Detective Comics*, is just as entertaining as his first case four years ago, and there have been no gaps in between.

"Elongated Man Throws His Weight Around" (one of your better titles) followed the regular story play with one very minor exception, Ralph's being wrong in his initial (unfounded) deduction as to Sam's weight-lifting ability. Otherwise, it was the usual—Ralph smells a mystery—helps the usual person who gets into trouble, and apprehends the crooks who bothered him.

—David Lewin, Lomita, Cal.

(Please don't make the *Elongated Man* yarns so formula-wise. Would you say the pattern was rigidly followed in this issue's "Case of the Clumsy Crook"—marking the artistic return of Murphy Anderson?—Editor)

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.



Riddle-dee-dee! The RIDDLER'S back with his cryptic crime-clues to confound the CAPED CRUSADER! This time the PRINCE OF PUZZLERS whips three strikes past BATMAN to put him out of action before the GOTHAM GANGBUSTER can get going! It's "THE RIDDLER'S PRISON-PUZZLE PROBLEM," in the **July DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 377**, which goes on sale May 28! What with an ELONGATED MAN adventure to boot, this is an ish to put on your "must read" list—so do it!

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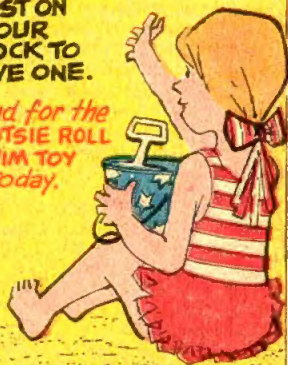
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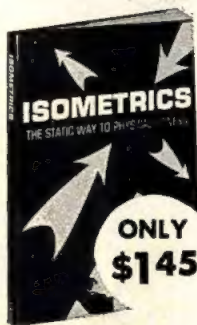
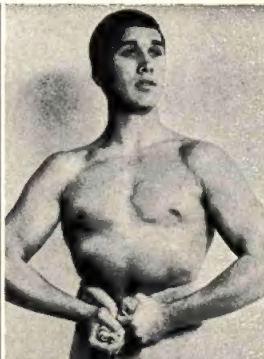


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